

Is the Hurricane Season Over?

The East Coast has been most fortunate so far. The 2006 Hurricane Season has produced 9 named storms. Hurricane Ernesto presented problems to some of Virginia Beach but for the most part the city has been blessed with an uneventful season. And it should be said that this season only needs to throw one good hurricane our way and all of our luck will be out the window. So please continue to monitor the weather whenever there's tropical activity.

2006 Named Storms October 20, 2006

1. Tropical Storm Alberto
2. Tropical Storm Beryl
3. Tropical Storm Chris
4. Tropical Storm Debby
5. Hurricane Ernesto
6. Hurricane Florence
7. Hurricane Gordon
8. Hurricane Helene
9. Hurricane Isaac

Cold Weather – *Preparation for the seasons*

Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve!

Can you believe it? It was just July 4th! But the fact is *cooler* weather is here.



Many of our members and neighbors own chain saws. If you are a VBCERT Member please take the chain saw safety course taught by Capt. Wayne Umphlett and Herb Maher the next time it is offered. The course is designed



to teach VBCERT Members to use the chain saw in a way that accomplishes what should be done and safely.

My personal interest in forestry and chain saws means that I have used them for a very long time – over 50 years. I

know accidents can happen. I took the chain saw course to see if I truly would learn anything – I DID! You should take this course too.

I could not end the chain saw portion without finding a good, interesting story about chain saw safety and here it is: Carl Smith is a fifth generation logger who received a forest technician degree and started his career with The Weyerhaeuser Company. Smith eventually went to work for the

United States Forest Service where he trained employees of the National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Carl Smith says in his basic chain saw course that, "**A chain saw is the most dangerous hand tool that can be purchased on the open market. It requires no license and no training to own or operate. Approximately 40,000 injuries and deaths were reported last year in the United States...and most could have been prevented.**" Carl's website can be found at http://forestry.about.com/cs/chainsaws/a/carl_smith_saw1.htm.

Stihl's Video

Stihl released their video in June 2004 for Chain Saw Safety, Maintenance, & Operational DVD. This DVD is a must for anyone wanting to use a chain saw – cost \$4.00 at any Land & Coates Store or other Stihl dealership.

Report Weather Related Problems

Mark Marchbank and Jim Redick of the Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Management need VBCERT's help. Imagine having a city of 258.7 square miles with a permanent population of approximately 450,000 people spread throughout 320 or so neighborhoods. It is the responsibility of Mark and Jim to provide a report to the city on the condition of the city after an event – tropical storm, hurricane, tornado, winter storm etc. Obviously Virginia Beach is a large city so whenever a storm of significance comes through Virginia Beach please document any damage in your neighborhood and report it to your District Leader who will report it to Operations and onto Mark and Jim through the proper chain of command.

The Hampton Roads Rotary Club

Cookie Ketcham and I presented the VBCERT Program to the Hampton Roads Rotary Club at the Crown Plaza during a meeting on June 23rd. VBCERT Team Member Don Frederick setup the meeting for us. We thank Don for having invited us to tell the VBCERT Story and also for the breakfast that followed. Cookie and I enjoyed mingling with the members after breakfast and shared some good stories as well.

Train-the-Trainer

VBCERT hosted the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Train-the-Trainer on July 14th and 15th.

VBCERT had 25 members to be certified as instructors out of the 45 CERT Members attending from throughout Virginia. Those persons receiving certification are needed to assist the program by volunteering to teach classes – this is most valuable to the CERT Program.

Terrorism Awareness

Cappy Meredith arranged for Jim Stevens to teach an in-depth course on Terrorism on July 27th. Jim had taught my class, Class 11, and did a very good job then. For this program Jim really put together an in-depth presentation. My wife, Sheila, attended the program with me and we both agreed we'd travel to hear Jim speak again.

It used to be we didn't think much about terrorism because terrorism always happened somewhere else. But not anymore! After the Oklahoma City bombing and then 9/11 we've learned that we must know as much as possible about terrorists and learn how they think.

The photo taken September 13, 2001 (above, right) from inside the restricted area tells us that there are many, many people in this world who wish us harm. We need to know as much about these people who frighten us and our children as possible so as to better protect ourselves. If you know Jim is speaking somewhere please do yourself a favor and attend his lecture.



I thank Jim for taking the time to come out to speak to VBCERT and sharing his knowledge with us so we can be more aware.

Fire Department Open House



The Fire Department held their annual Open House at the Fire and EMS Training Center August 6th where we had fire-fighting

demonstrations, viewed the Monster Fire Truck and generally had a good time with our fire-fighters.

The Open House is held to educate the public about the fire department and to recruit potential fire-fighters. Of course VBCERT is there to recruit



CERT Members as well. There are times when our VBCERT Members go on into the Fire Department or EMS.

Diane Jacobs, Team Leader for District 3 (Yellow Team) found time to become an EMT. And those of us from Class 11 have proudly watched Rick Velazquez work his way from VBCERT to Virginia Beach Volunteer Fireman.

Portsmouth CERT

Cookie Ketcham, Lee Kimble and I traveled to Portsmouth's Fire Training Center to watch their practical on Saturday, August 19th at the invitation of Portsmouth Fire Captain and CERT Coordinator Monty Gilbert.



Monty proudly showed us their communication trailer which provides shelter for a HAM radio operator while handling communications between the various CERT teams working the disaster. The lady with the yellow vest (below) is a HAM and a HAM goes with each team that leaves the command center.



We enjoyed Portsmouth's hospitality and learned a great deal



about how their team trains and functions. Please notice that Portsmouth CERT Colors are orange for improved visibility. Trips like this can be very rewarding

and builds lasting relationships that can be helpful during times of disaster.

Hispanic Family Day at St. Gregory's Catholic Church

Tom Thomas, Bob Chauncey and I worked the Hispanic Family Day event on Sunday, August 20th. We felt extremely good about being at



this event which had a very festive feel to it. We shared space with the Fire and Police Department. I even had the honor of taking Tom and Bob's photo with Mayor Oberndorf.

Events such as the Hispanic Family Day help us learn the people of Virginia Beach and exposes VBCERT to them, the people of Virginia Beach. And the networking with the fire and police department helps us know who we are working with during times of disaster.

Disaster Volunteer Day

The first annual Disaster Volunteer Day was held this year in Hampton on August 26th. There were approximately 100 CERT Team and MRC Members present from throughout Southeastern Virginia.

Jennifer Freeland of the Newport News MRC did an excellent job of setting up the program in cooperation with Lt. Richelle Wallace of the Hampton Fire Department and Hampton CERT Coordinator who proudly displayed the Hampton CERT trailer.

Jennifer and Richelle had several work days where people from the various CERT organizations would come to Hampton to work to prepare for the day. Among



those from Virginia Beach were Cookie Ketcham and Helen Lee that made the trip to Hampton to make the 1st Annual Disaster Volunteer Day a huge success.



Among the many topics covered were pet rescue and responding to a disaster when FEMA calls. Our own VBCERT Member Bob Denney, one of the original VBCERT Leadership Corps members, served on a panel to share

his experiences with FEMA.

Gloucester CERT had a program discussing the series of woodland fires they experienced last spring and how they interacted and supported the various state and local agencies sent in to control the fires.

By far the most emotions were witnessed from the sessions devoted to pet rescue. There were representatives from the

SPCA and other pet rescue organizations discussing their experiences after Katrina. And the question kept coming up from the audience as to what is being done now – many times the audience members were not interested in hearing what lobbying efforts were being used to write new legislation but simply what is being done now. We heard it over and over.



But Cookie had brought one young lady, Holly Quaglia who worked for Animal Rescue New Orleans as a volunteer and

is now a VBCERT Member who could help get the information out about new legislation concerning pets and their rescue. Holly was simply amazing to hear her discuss the many facets of pet rescue and those of you in VBCERT Class 21 will understand what I mean. I look forward to Holly taking a more active role in VBCERT.

We had good food served by the Salvation Army who'd set up their Mobile Kitchen nearby the demonstration field and meeting place.



The Hampton Fire Department demonstrated procedures for decontamination of persons exposed to hazardous materials.

I hope more people from VBCERT will take part in next year's Disaster Volunteer Day.

Tidewater EMS Picnic – Chesapeake

Cookie Ketcham, Tom Thomas and I worked the TEMS Picnic at the Chesapeake City Park on Sunday, August 27th. There was a good group of people present and we recruited a couple of people but by far the most good is having the presence of being there supporting EMS organizations throughout Hampton Roads and beyond.

Lockheed Martin – Brown-Bag Lunch

Cookie and I were invited to the Virginia Beach office of Lockheed Martin to speak to their management group about CERT in the workplace August 31st.

We outlined a course where very basic information could be taught in two 8-hour sessions for those people who wanted to better prepare themselves but do not have time to become VBCERT Graduates. We will be anxious to see the outcome of this session.



Rock-n-Roll ½ Marathon – Virginia Beach Oceanfront

VBCERT was well represented at the Rock-n-Roll ½ Marathon.



We were there to be Marshalls which meant we were there to hold the lines to keep fans from coming onto the race track. We were there to make sure every person in the race got the chance to finish

the race without interruption.

I'm pleased to say that I was very proud of VBCERT and the job we did. In my opinion VBCERT did exactly what we were told to do.

I am not pleased to say that every runner in the Rock-n-Roll ½ Marathon did not finish the race without interruption. This was due, in my opinion, to the city giving a certain group of people, mainly Motorcycle Media, unrestricted passes.



Please note Motorcycle Media above.

For those of you who may not know who the motorcycle media is I will try to explain them and their job in the race. You have a very nice motorcycle with two people on it – one driving the motorcycle and one sitting behind the driver looking backwards taking



pictures of runners. This is how they get those unbelievable close-ups of runners that make people reading sports magazines read those articles.

No doubt the Motorcycle Media do a good job. But their job is complete when the world-class runners finish the race. They are not here in Virginia Beach to photograph the runner who is a cancer survivor or heart patient or for that person who is

healthy he thinks - they are all out there to prove he or she can do it.



Each entrant deserves the right to finish the race without interruption from people crossing in front of them or otherwise impeding their race.

Instead, this year at least, the Motorcycle Media were intent on breaking the line that I was holding. And they did so rudely. They came up, flashed their ID Badge while they were moving the barricades. One even approached me in a hostile manner.



I know the police say they need our help during these events. And when these events are ran well I've always enjoyed helping the police department out. But VBCERT Members are not trained nor do we have the authority to deal with

participants such as the Motorcycle Media and other unruly people.

I can say that the lines were holding until my problems with the Motorcycle Media – the police officer working behind me checked the credentials of the Motorcycle Media and there was nothing he could do because they were issued non-restricted passes – the lines were effectively broken at that time.

Hopefully the city will listen to the police department and be more cautious in granting unrestricted passes to people here for the race.

ECPI – Criminal Justice Department

Cappy Meredith, Cookie Ketcham, Fire Chief Cade, District Chief Paul Pokorski and VBCERT in general must be doing a really good job out here ... so very good that ECPI has asked that VBCERT be taught in their criminal justice department.

RE M I N D E R : We need volunteers to teach these classes from the graduates of Train-the-Trainer last July. Other qualified instructors are welcomed to sign up to teach classes as well. Please call Cookie at 385-2914.

BLUE ANGELS

Oceana NAS Air Show

Richard Looke promised Cookie that he could get us a space on the flight-line during the air show. Thousands upon thousands of people walk right by the section we were to be to get into the show. Cookie and I were excited, very excited!



As the air show approached we had not heard anything from Richard. Well we know Richard from Class 20. Richard is a type-A personality. We did not doubt Richard's ability to deliver us a space but we did not have any information to put out to the VBCERT Membership requesting help.

Yep. You got it right. Cookie and I were hustling to get everything we could together a day or so before the show's opening date of September 9th.

We arrived early on Saturday morning approximately 7:00AM. Richard met us at the gate and really took care of us by setting up our tables – the tent provided by the US Navy was already up. And we were right at the gate to the air show, directly on the flight-line. We had the Virginia Beach Police Department on our left and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) on our right.



At 8:00AM the gates were opened. We met people from all over the eastern part of the United States. It was surprising as to how many knew about CERT or were CERT Members.



I was delighted to meet Charlie Luddeke, Jr. who is Chief, Safety & Security Branch - Physical Security Section for the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – FEMA. I was extremely busy with people wanting information and I knew Cookie would want to meet the Chief Charlie Luddeke so I asked him if he could come back a little later when both Cookie and I would be there. By gosh, I looked up a couple hours later and there was Chief Luddeke. We spent several minutes chatting about CERT, Katrina, and the air show.

Cookie and I worked 11 ½ hours that Saturday. We were both beat, having trouble talking from talking so much but pleased to have pulled everything off.

As we were pulling away from the flight-line my cell phone rang. It was Kerry Middlebrooks calling to see if we needed help for Sunday. I don't think I have ever seen two people,

Cookie and I, respond to a telephone call as happily as we did to Kerry's call.

We went back to the Fire Training Center and salvaged all the literature we could find, even taking it off display shelves. There had to be enough literature to get us through Sunday.

Sunday morning Cookie and I arrived at the air show to find Joseph Marrazzo, Kerry Middlebrooks and Jackie Carr there ready to work. We were so relieved to have help. And I will never be able to show my gratitude to Joseph, Kerry and Jackie for their help that day – it was truly appreciated.



The BLUE ANGELS were awesome as always. And the show in general was just a great show. Both Cookie and I appreciated the hard work Richard Looke put into his portion of the show – his getting VBCERT into the air show at the location we were assigned put us, VBCERT, before more people than we could meet in at least a year and perhaps 2 years.

My hat is off to Richard Looke, Kerry Middlebrooks, Joseph Marrazzo and Jackie Carr – their help was tremendous.



The Sheriff's Office had excellent people working their tent at the air show for kids and their identification.



The Virginia Beach Police Department had their helicopter on display at the air show.



The United States Coast Guard had their workhorse on display. Visitors were shown the inside of the helicopter and the various types of equipment used for water rescues.

VBCERT Exhibits at MacArthur Center

Many of our VBCERT Members participated in the Hurricane Awareness Day at MacArthur Center August 12th. In fact there were so many that I'm not going to attempt to recollect all of them for fear of leaving someone out.

We were exhibiting with Mark Marchbank of the Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Management. And as always those participating had an excellent opportunity to network with other agencies throughout Southeastern Virginia.

Steve Wade Interviewed by 'The Beach'

I'm sure a lot of you saw Steve Wade's interview in 'The Beach' and if you did not you can download it at <http://www.vbgov.com/info/beach/>.

Steve was also featured in the Beach Video Magazine.

Perhaps all this publicity is because Steve is Safety Officer for VBCERT, or maybe it's because 'When you're hot you're hot.' Either way, good work Steve.

Greenrun Homeowner's Association

Steve Wade, Mary Gilman, Bob Chauncey, and Tom Thomas attended the Greenrun Homeowner's Association on September 16th. If there were others attending that I did not name please forgive me. I do wish to thank these people for representing VBCERT at this affair. They always represent us well.

Virginia Beach Fire Department's 100th

That's right! The Virginia Beach Fire Department is celebrating its 100th birthday. This celebration was originally scheduled for October 7th but has been postponed due to the Nor'Easter that came through the day before. It has been rescheduled for November 4th with festivities beginning at 10:00AM at the Courthouse Municipal Center behind Building 1.

We need a large contingent of VBCERT Members to show our appreciation for being a part of the Virginia Beach Fire Department.

I'm sure there will be further information being sent out from Cookie.

My Piece!

You've probably realized by now that this newsletter is a little late and very much a summary of what I've been doing over the summer and into the fall. I regret that.

This newsletter should be about you and what you have been doing. I should be the reporter.

But I was extremely busy this summer with VBCERT activities. And I really could not sit down to write a newsletter and be everywhere I was to be for VBCERT, my family and business. I too regret that I couldn't be in more places and still get the newsletter out on a more-timely basis. I apologize.

Therefore I'm asking you for your help.

Please send me short e-mails explaining what you've done, who you met with, or what function you've attended. And please tell me who attended those functions with you. Then I can more effectively report the news you're making. It is you who will make VBCERT the best CERT Team in the Commonwealth of Virginia and we need to tell your story.

With the potential of our new website being up soon will help all of us in the reporting of our weekly activities for VBCERT.

I do wish to thank Cookie for all she has brought to the Team. And a big thank you goes out to District Chief Paul Pokorski for his support of me and the Team. Chief Pokorski has opened doors for VBCERT that seemed impossible only a few months ago.

We've brought forth an Executive Committee that will be providing leadership under B. A. Napoleon. B. A. has worked hard and has always offered very sound advice to the Leadership Corps. I thank B. A. for stepping up to take on this responsibility.

The Leadership Corps continues to do an exceptional job. When I mention events that we have scheduled and we need people, well I always know I can turn to the Leadership Corps for help. Helen Lee is always there if her busy travel schedule allows her to be. Laura Nelson gives so much of her time with all our meetings and she keeps good records as well. Kristen Richard from Class 11 just keeps on giving – thanks Kristen. Tom Thomas, Ira and Paula Swartz, John Girard, Steve Wade, Bob Chauncey, and others just keep on giving when asked. Bill Meyer – VBCERT Classes would not be the same without you – there's not enough room here to mention all you've done for VBCERT and I'm proud to have been in Class 11 with you. Lee Kimble. Lee, it has been a real pleasure working with you. I've certainly enjoyed watching you demonstrate your leadership qualities behind the scenes – we thank you.

District Leaders – Kristen Richard (District 1 – BLUE), Steve Thomas (District 2 – RED), Diane Jacobs (District 3 – YELLOW) and Ken Muller (District 4 – Green) ... you guys are great to have taken on the responsibility you have taken upon yourself. For many of our team members you are the ones they will see most. Build your individual teams strong, delegate and your teams will make you proud. Thank you.

I've said enough – it's my pleasure to work with this great group of people. Larry J. Livingston

